

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4168

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY//EC PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 MONROVIA 2165

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, XX

SUBJECT: PARM - ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT - PART I

REF: CERP 0001

1. PART 1 - POLICY ASSESSMENT.

A. U.S. INTERESTS. LONG-TERM U.S. INTERESTS IN LIBERIA ARE MANIFOLD. HISTORY TIES US TOGETHER IN A UNIQUE WAY AS EVERY (AT LEAST LIBERIAN) SCHOOL CHILD KNOWS. AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS WERE THE FIRST TO INVEST IN LIBERIA IN A MAJOR WAY, ESTABLISHING THE FOUNDATION FOR THE ECONOMY OF 20TH CENTURY LIBERIA. FAIR MARKET VALUE OF THAT INVESTMENT PRESENTLY IS ABOUT THREE-FOURTHS OF A BILLION DOLLARS. ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INVESTMENT IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IS VERY PROBABLE. WE HAVE BEEN LIBERIA'S MAJOR TRADING PARTNER THROUGHOUT THIS CENTURY, AND, WHILE COMPETITION INCREASES, AMERICAN PRODUCERS RETAIN A DECIDED ADVANTAGE OVER OTHER FOREIGN SUPPLIERS. LIBERIA IS THE ONE AFRICAN COUNTRY SOUTH OF THE SAHARA WHERE BY TREATY WE HAVE STRATEGIC ACCESS
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TO A MAJOR PORT AND AIRFIELD. THE VOA TRANSMITTER FOR ALL OF AFRICA (IT COVERS PARTS OF EUROPE - PARTICULARLY EASTERN - LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA AS WELL) IS IN LIBERIA AS IS OUT ATO COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, KEY TO US DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER SENSITIVE COMMUNICATIONS NEEDS IN AFRICA. LIBERIA IS THE SITE OF ONE OF THE EIGHT OMEGA NAVIGATION SYSTEM STATIONS. LIBERIA IS A MODERATE AFRICAN STATE

THAT HAS A CONSTITUTION AND BILL OF RIGHTS SIMILAR TO OURS. FINALLY, WE SHARE AS WELL A COMMITMENT TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM.

THESE LONG-TERM INTERESTS ACCORD IN A NUMBER OF WAYS WITH THE GLOBAL AND AFRICAN BROAD TRENDS FORECASTS RECENTLY PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. ON HUMAN RIGHTS WE CAN EXPECT LIBERIA TO BE GENERALLY RECEPTIVE TO OUR DETERMINATION TO PROMOTE THESE RIGHTS AND TO COOPERATE WITH US IN THEIR ADVANCEMENT WORLDWIDE. A CAVEAT OR TWO, THOUGH. TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BLACK AFRICA COULD BE SEEN AS A WESTERN DEVICE TO MASK ANY FEET-DRAGGING ON APARTHEID AND MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. ALSO, THE RECENT RELEASE BY OUR CONGRESS OF OUR ANALYSIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS HERE COULD DAMPEN THE GOL'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE ISSUE. SHOULD SOVIET ADVENTURISM IN AFRICA WARRANT AN AMERICAN RESPONSE, OUR ACCESS TO THE PORT OF MONROVIA AND ROBERTSFIELD WOULD BE VALUABLE STRATEGIC ASSETS. AS WE ADDRESS OUR POLICY TOWARD NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS WE CAN EXPECT TO ENJOY A USEFUL DIALOGUE WITH LIBERIA, WHICH IS AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT IN MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND WHICH, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS, INCREASINGLY SEEMS DETERMINED TO ACHIEVE MODERATION ON GLOBAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES. AS WE DEVELOP NEW POLICIES TOWARD SOUTHERN AFRICA WE WILL FIND LIBERIA A READY SOURCE OF INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT REGION, AND, THROUGH PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH MOST OF THEM, WE HAVE A CHANNEL TO SOUTHERN AFRICA'S NATIONALIST LEADERS. AS WE DEAL WITH THE PROBLEMS OF RESOURCE NEEDS FOR OUR NATIONAL WELL-BEING, AND WITH REASONABLE ATTENTION TO QUID PRO QUO, WE CAN EXPECT

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TO ENJOY ACCESS TO LIBERIA'S SIGNIFICANT IRON ORE DEPOSITS, ITS OTHER MINERALS, AND ITS AGRICULTURAL AND FOREST PRODUCTS.

LOOKING ONCE AGAIN TO MULTILATERAL FORA, WE WILL WISH TO CONTINUE RELIANCE ON LIBERIA AS A FRIEND WHO UNDERSTANDS OUR POSITION ON ISSUES SUCH AS PUERTO RICO AND TO SEEK ITS ASSISTANCE IN DEFEATING EFFORTS BY ADVERSARIES TO MAKE MISCHIEF OVER SUCH ISSUES. THE CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WE ENJOY WITH THE SECURITY OFFICIALS IN LIBERIA WILL REMAIN FOR US AN ASSET FOR GAINING INSIGHTS INTO SOVIET INTENTIONS IN AFRICA. WE SHOULD ALSO BE ABLE TO DEVELOP LIBERIA'S RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH THE PRC INTO A NEW ASSET FOR OBSERVING PEKING'S ROLE IN AFRICA. LASTLY, LIBERIA'S LEADERS WILL OFTEN GIVE US VALUABLE INFORMATION ON THE EVOLUTION OF AFRO-ARAB RELATIONS.

2. B. OVERVIEW. LOOKING TO THE NEXT ONE OR TWO YEARS WE CAN FORECAST WITH SOME DEGREE OF ACCURACY CONDITIONS THAT WILL INFLUENCE OUR ABILITY TO PROMOTE OUR INTERESTS

VIS-A-VIS LIBERIA. IT IS LIKELY THAT MUCH MORE WILL DEPEND UPON OUR OWN ATTITUDES AND POLICIES THAN THOSE OF THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT. WHILE LIBERIA FROM TIME TO TIME TAKES STEPS TO BROADEN ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, HEIGHTEN IDENTIFICATION WITH THE REST OF AFRICA, AND CARVE OUT POLICIES THAT FIT MOST CLOSELY ITS OWN PRIORITIES, IT REMAINS DESIROUS OF A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, AND STRATEGICALLY. WE SEE LITTLE CHANGE IN THAT POSTURE OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS, BUT FURTHER INTO THE FUTURE, US POLICY WILL HAVE TO DEAL INCREASINGLY WITH THE POSSIBILITY, EVEN IN RELATIVELY STABLE LIBERIA, OF CHANGES IN ATTITUDES OR IN THE POWER STRUCTURE INIMICAL TO OUR INTERESTS. PRESIDENT TOLBERT RECOGNIZES THE POSSIBILITY AND IN URGING OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE HAS PREDICTED LIBERIA HAS ONLY FIVE YEARS OR SO TO MAKE NEEDED CHANGES IN THE SOCIETY. THE FUTURE WILL BE AFFECTED IN LARGE MEASURE BY OUR
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ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LIBERIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE IN THE FALL OF 1976 TO DOUBLE THAT ASSISTANCE. PERCEPTIONS WILL BE AS IMPORTANT AS DOLLAR FIGURES AND TO PROTECT OUR INTERESTS WE MUST CONDUCT A VIGOROUS, IMAGINATIVE AND EFFICIENT AID OPERATION.

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INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY//EC PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 MONROVIA 2165

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

IN GENERAL, LIBERIA WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH US ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES BUT IT FACES THE CONSTANT PROBLEM OF AN IMAGE OF WATERBOY. IF WE DEVELOP POLICIES ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY ECONOMIC, THAT ARE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF THE POORER COUNTRIES, LIBERIA WILL BE BETTER ABLE ACTIVELY TO RAISE ITS VOICE FOR MODERATION. THE SAME HOLDS TRUE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. STRONG AND ACTIVE US SUPPORT FOR MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND OPPOSITION TO INSTITUTIONAL RACISM THERE WILL BOLSTER LIBERIA'S OWN DETERMINATION TO PLAY A ROLE IN A PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS. NOTWITHSTANDING THE US OBJECTIVE OF RESTRAINTS ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, OUR RESPONSIVENESS OR LACK THEREOF TO ANY GOL REQUESTS FOR INCREASED ASSISTANCE WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN OUR RELATIONS. LIBERIA, AND WE WOULD HAZARD OTHER MODERATE AFRICAN STATES, WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO SUPPORT US ATTITUDES ON ARMS TRANSFERS AS LONG AS THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUE TO SUPPLY ARMS AS IN ANGOLA, SOMALIA AND GUINEA. LIBERIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE A POLICY OF WELCOMING FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND SUPPORTING FREE ENTERPRISES. CONFIDENTIAL

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NONETHELESS, WE COULD SEE A CONTINUATION OF RECENT TRENDS THAT CLOUD THE INVESTMENT CLIMATE INCLUDING INCREASED DEMANDS ON CONCESSION HOLDERS, THE PURSUIT OF LIBERIANIZATION AT THE COST OF EFFICIENT PRODUCTION, FAVORITISM TOWARD LABOR IN DISPUTES WITH FOREIGN FIRMS, AND CORRUPTION. GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE IN ITS FISCAL POLICY, LIBERIA HAS BEGUN INCREASINGLY TO TURN TO LARGE-SCALE BORROWING. UNWISE AND UNPRODUCTIVE USE OF THESE FUNDS COULD MEAN FISCAL TROUBLE FOR LIBERIA. LASTLY, PURSUIT OF US INTERESTS IN LIBERIA WILL REQUIRE PERSONAL CONTACTS BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE LEADERSHIPS. PRESIDENT TOLBERT HAS VISITED THE LAST THREE AMERICAN PRESIDENTS AND HE DOUBTLESS HOPES TO VISIT PRESIDENT CARTER EARLY ON. THIS EXPECTATION CAN NOT BE OVEREMPHASIZED. IT IS FOR PRESIDENT TOLBERT AND THE GOL THE TOUCHSTONE OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP THAT EACH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS HAS CONFIRMED EXISTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. BY THE SAME TOKEN, LIBERIA WILL EXPECT TO BE INCLUDED OFTEN ON THE ITINERARY OF HIGH US GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TRAVELING IN AFRICA. AS WAS TRUE IN THE CASE OF SECRETARIES ROGERS AND KISSINGER LIBERIA WILL BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE TO THE ITINERARY OF ANY INITIAL VISIT THE SECRETARY MIGHT MAKE TO AFRICA.

3. C. OBJECTIVES, COURSES OF ACTION AND ISSUES.

BILATERAL OBJECTIVE

THE CENTRAL BILATERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES IN LIBERIA IS TO PROMOTE THE KIND OF PARALLEL INTERESTS BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND MONROVIA WHICH WILL PERMIT THE

A. MAINTAIN CLOSE LIAISON WITH THE LEADING POLITICALLY SIGNIFICANT PERSONALITIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO DIRECT POLICY AND INFLUENCE PUBLIC OPINION OR WHO, IN THE PASSAGE OF TIME, MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO RISE TO POSITIONS OF POWER AND INFLUENCE:

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B. EXERT ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE MAIN POLICY GOALS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND THE SUPPORT OF THE LIBERIAN GOVERNMENT IN WORLD COUNCILS FOR THESE GOALS;

C. MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH A BROAD SPECTRUM OF CITIZENS OF ALL SOCIAL STRATA, BOTH URBAN AND RURAL, IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO ANTICIPATE TRENDS IN ATTITUDES TOWARD BOTH THE GOL ADMINISTRATION IN POWER AND TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AND ITS POLICIES;

D. PROMOTE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE AMONG LIBERIANS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHO INFLUENCE ATTITUDES AND POLICIES, THE SENSE THAT THE U.S. OFFICIAL INSTALLATIONS ON LIBERIAN SOIL CONTRIBUTE TO THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF THE LIBERIAN NATION;

E. FULFILL THE COMMITMENT MADE BY THE UNITED STATES DURING PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES TO DOUBLE U.S. AID TO LIBERIA;

F. IMPLEMENT AN ACTIVE TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROMOTION PROGRAM, EMPHASIZING MUTUAL INTERDEPENDENCE AND BENEFITS OF CONTINUED CLOSE TIES WITH THE U.S. AND WESTERN EUROPE;

G. SUPPLY RESPONSIBLE GOL OFFICIALS WITH EXPLANATIONS OF U.S. POSITIONS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND, RECOGNIZING THE DEARTH OF SOURCE MATERIAL IN LIBERIA, PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF BACKGROUND INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL INCLUDING BOOKS, MAGAZINES, TRANSLATIONS AND COLLATIONS OF NEWS ARTICLES;

H. CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT TOLBERT IN HIS DESIRE TO DEVELOP THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA TO THE
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POINT WHERE THE AFL CAN BECOME AN EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION FOR CIVIC ACTION AND DEFENSE. THIS WILL INVOLVE CONTINUED SUPPORT TO THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR MILITARY SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND MIGHT INCLUDE PROVISION OF HIGHER FMS LEVELS;

I. SUPPORT THE GOL CONCEPT OF LIBERIANIZATION (ABSORPTION OF QUALIFIED LIBERIANS INTO JOBS IN INCREASING RESPONSIBILITY IN EXPATRIATE CORPORATIONS), THEREBY ENHANCING THE POSITIVE ROLE AND IMAGE OF THESE CORPORATIONS;

J. REINFORCE THE INTIMATE CULTURAL TIES WITH THE US THROUGH THE PRESENT INFORMATION, CULTURAL, AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS AIMED AT THE NATION'S LEADERS IN THESE FIELDS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL POPULATION;

K. CONTINUE SUPPORT TO THE LIBERIAN LABOR MOVEMENT THROUGH THE PRESENCE OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LABOR CENTER OF THE AFL/CIO;

L. CONTINUE THE TRADITIONAL AND WELL RECEIVED PEACE CORPS PROGRAM;

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INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY // EC PA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 3 OF 3 MONROVIA 2165

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

M. EMPHASIZE THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE AVILABILITY AND QUALITY OF EDUCATION, THROUGH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER TRAINING, THROUGH USAID SUPPORT TO THE GOL EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, AND THROUGH THE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.

N. CONTINUE PROVISION OF A SELF-HELP FUND, ADMINISTERED BY THE AMBASSADOR, AS A MEANS OF CONVEYING DIRECTLY TO THE COUNTRYSIDE A SENSE OF THE PERSONAL INTEREST OF THE AMBASSADOR, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. PEOPLE, IN THE WELFARE OF THE LIBERIAN CITIZEN.

AID: OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM RESPONDS TO THE GOL'S REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COUNTRY'S FOUR-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. WE ARE SATISFIED THAT THE CONFIGURATION OF OUR AID PROGRAM SERVES BOTH OUR LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENTAL AND SHORTER TERM POLITICAL TARGETS. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THE AID PROGRAM AS A QUID PRO QUO PAYMENT FOR ATO, VOA, OUR COMMERCIAL INTERESTS AND STANDBY FACILITIES. WE SHOULD RECOGNIZE, THOUGH, THAT OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE DOES HELP TO PROVIDE A POSITIVE CLIMATE FOR THE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTINUATION OF THESE PRIVILEGES, AND THAT THE GOL VIEWS THE AID PROGRAM AS A BAROMETER OF THE USG'S FEELINGS TOWARD IT.

IN RESPONSE TO UNDERSTANDINGS REACHED DURING PRESIDENT TOLBERT'S STATE VISIT AND EARLIER DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DEY US OFFICIALS AND THE GOL, WE ARE MORE THAN DOUBLING OUR ASSISTANCE VOLUME. MOST OF THE ONGOING AND ALL OF THE NEW PROJECTS MEET THE CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT. THEY FOCUS ON IMPROVEMENTS IN THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF LIBERIA'S RURAL POOR.

ISSUES:

IN THIS CONTEXT, ATTENTION IS DRAWN TO THE EVER-LENGTHENING INTERVAL BETWEEN ORIGINAL PROJECT REQUESTS AND IMPLEMENTATION STARTUP, CAUSED BY AN INCREASE IN DOCUMENTATION AND ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS. THESE CONTINUE TO INTRODUCE OCCASIONAL IRRITANTS INTO OUR AID RELATIONSHIPS AND CLEARLY DIMINISH THE IMPACT OF OUR ASSISTANCE. ALL TOO OFTEN, IN OUR OBSERVATION, AID'S NEW EMPHASIS ON THE "COLLABORATIVE STYLE" IS AN EXPECTATION THAT HOST COUNTRIES UNQUESTIONINGLY ACCEPT AN ENDLESS SUCCESSION OF UNILATERALLY DETERMINED CHANGES IN FORMATS AND PRIORITIES. WE RECOMMEND ACTION AT THE WASHINGTON LEVEL TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THIS RED TAPE, PREFERABLY BY DELEGATING TO THE USAID DIRECTORS THE AUTHORITIES THAT MORE CLOSELY

MATCH THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. WE ALSO ADVOCATE A MORE FLEXIBLE INTERPRETATION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL "MANDATE". IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS LIBERIA THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS BENEFITTING THE RURAL POOR MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A SIMULTANEOUS STRENGTHENING OF THE RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO MOBILIZE REVENUES AND CAPITAL RESOURCES.

USMM: THE NINE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE USMM ARE CO-LOCATED WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, GOVERNMENT OF
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LIBERIA. THE USMM PERFORMS ITS FUNCTIONS OF SUPERVISING THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND IMPROVING THE CIVIC ACTION AND MILITARY CAPABILITIES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (AFL) BY WORKING DIRECTLY WITH THE RESPONSIBLE LIBERIAN OFFICERS, BOTH AT STAFF HEADQUARTERS IN MONROVIA AND IN THE FIELD. THE PRESIDENT OF LIBERIA AND HIS MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAVE MADE IT CLEAR REPEATEDLY THAT THEY PLACE CONSIDERABLE RELIANCE UPON THE USMM IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE AFL. THE PRESENCE OF THE USMM IS A BASIC FACTOR IN MAINTAINING A STRONGLY PRO-U.S. ATTITUDE AMONG THE LIBERIAN MILITARY GENERALLY. THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE RELIES SPECIFICALLY ON THE ENGINEERING ADVISORY CAPABILITY WITH THE USMM.

ISSUE: THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE PRESENCE OF A HIGH-CALIBER USMM TEAM IS NECESSARY IN HELPING TO ASSURE A FAVORABLE ATTITUDE WITHIN THE GOL TOWARD MAINTAINING EXISTING COMMITMENTS REGARDING USE OF PORTS AND AIRFIELDS BY THE US.

USIS: USIS IS A PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF BASIC INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF LIBERIA, THE MAJOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS. USIS PROVIDES A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF WHAT CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS ARE OFFERED IN LIBERIA, THROUGH LECTURES, LIBRARY PROGRAMS, ARTISTIC PRESENTATIONS, FILMS AND VIDEO TAPE RECORDINGS. IN COOPERATION WITH THE US EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL FOUNDATION, USIS PROMOTES STUDIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND, WITH USAID AND PEACE CORPS, IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS IN LIBERIA.

ISSUE: REGARDING THE FOUNDATION, IT IS A HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE USG TO RENEGOTIATE THE PORT/FOUNDATION AGREEMENT. CONTINUED DELAYS ON OUR PART ARE CREATING SERIOUS PROBLEMS WITH THE GOL AND NO RELIEF FROM THE
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LARGE DEMANDS THE PRESENT AGREEMENT PLACES ON THE CU/
AF BUDGET.

PEACE CORPS: PEACE CORPS/LIBERIA CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO LIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANPOWER TRAINING AND IS A VIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WHICH IS HIGHLY VALUED BY THE GOL. SHORTFALLS IN LOGISTICAL, STAFF, AND PROGRAM SUPPORT, HOWEVER, LIMIT THE TOTAL CONTRIBUTION MADE BY INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS. ALTHOUGH IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT STAFF AND FUNDING REMAIN AT APPROXIMATELY THE CURRENT LEVEL, THE PROPOSED HIRE OF A SECOND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND A PEACE CORPS PHYSICIAN IS CONSIDERED DESIRABLE AND HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE AMBASSADOR VIA MODE PROCEDURES. A MODERATE GROWTH IN THE NUMBER OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN LIBERIA IS A POSSIBILITY AT SUCH TIME AS CURRENT OPERATIONS ARE UPGRADED TO PROVIDE MORE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT.

FAA: THE FEDERAL AVIATION AGENCY IS ASSISTING THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION IN MAINTAINING HIGH OPERATING SAFETY STANDARDS AT ROBERTSFIELD, LIBERIA'S PRINCIPAL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

COAST GUARD: THE U.S. COAST GUARD IS MAINTAINING AND OPERATING THE OMEGA NAVIGATION STATION AND IS TRAINING LIBERIANS TO TAKE OVER THE STATION AT THE END OF 1978. THIS STATION SITUATED IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF MONROVIA IS ONE OF EIGHT SUCH STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD TO ASSIST SHIPS, AIRCRAFT AND LAND VEHICLES LOCATE THEIR PRECISE POSITION ELECTRONICALLY UNDER ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS.

ISSUE: IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE OVER THE STATION AT THE END OF 1978.
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THE LIBERIANS WILL NEED SEVERAL YEARS OF ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE OVER THE STATION. THUS, U.S. COAST GUARD WILL HAVE TO FINANCE THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF THE STATION BEYOND DECEMBER 1978.
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